

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-84 are cancelled.

85. (previously presented) An apparatus for backlighting an object with varying colors of light, said apparatus comprising:

a power supply;

a first plurality of individual light sources each capable of emitting a distinct color of light;

a micro-processor capable of controlling the intensity of each of the first plurality of individual light sources;

a base member positioned over the first plurality of individual light sources, the base member having a first portion configured and dimensioned for removably receiving the object; and

whereby the color of light backlighting the object may be varied by instructing the micro-processor to alter the intensity of each of the first plurality of individual lights.

86. (original) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein the first plurality of individual light sources comprise LEDs.

87. (original) The apparatus of claim 86 wherein the LEDs comprise a red LED, a green LED and a blue LED.

88. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein the base member is part of a button or key, said button or key actuating a switch controlling an electrical device.

89. (original) The apparatus of claim 88 wherein the first plurality of individual light sources comprises two or more LEDs chosen from the group comprising a red LED, a blue LED, and a green LED.

90. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 89 wherein the color of light backlighting the object is dependent upon the status of the electrical device controlled by the switch.

91. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 89 wherein the color of light backlighting the object is dependent upon an input selected from the group consisting essentially of the time of day and an input from a light sensor.

92. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 89 wherein the intensity of light backlighting the object is dependent upon an

input selected from the group consisting essentially of the time of day and an input from a light sensor.

93. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 89 further comprising a second plurality of individual light sources, said second plurality of individual light sources also illuminating at least a portion of the object.

Claims 94-146 are cancelled.

147. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 85 further comprising a lens for covering the object.

148. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 147 wherein said lens and base member couple together using a snap fit.

149. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 148 wherein said lens magnifies said object.

150. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein said base member further comprises a passage for allowing light to pass freely through the base member.

151. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein the base member further comprises a translucent or transparent portion for allowing light to pass through the base member to backlight the object.

152. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 85 further comprising a means for attaching the base member to a switch matrix.

153. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein the object is a label.

154. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 85 153 further comprising a lens for covering the label.

155. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 154 wherein said base member comprises a hollow passage for allowing light to freely pass through the base member and a translucent or transparent portion for allowing light to pass through the base member.

156. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 85 further comprising a means for diffusing the light from the first plurality of individual light sources.

157. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein said base member is movable to a depressed position to thereby activate a switch.

158. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 157 wherein said base member is restored from the depressed position via a resilient member.

159. (currently amended) A button assembly for actuating an electrical switch, said button assembly comprising:

a lens, said lens being composed of a transparent material, said lens further comprising a bottom surface;

a base member, said base member comprising a top surface and a bottom surface, said top surface comprising a recessed portion adapted to receive the bottom surface of the lens; and

a holder configured and dimensioned for removably receiving an object

~~a first means for releasably coupling the lens and base together.~~

Claims 160 and 161 are cancelled.

162. (new) The button assembly of claim 159 wherein the holder is disposed between the lens and the base member.

163. (new) The apparatus of claim 159 wherein said base member is movable to a depressed position to thereby activate the electrical switch.

164. (new) The apparatus of claim 163 further comprising a resilient member, wherein said base member is restored from the depressed position via the resilient member.

165. (new) The apparatus of claim 159 further comprising at least one light source for backlighting an object placed in the holder.

166. (new) The apparatus of claim 159 further comprising a means for releasably coupling the lens and base member together.

167. (new) The apparatus of claim 159 wherein the holder is configured and dimensioned to receive a label.

168. (new) The apparatus of claim 159 further comprising:  
a first plurality of individual light sources each capable of emitting a distinct color of light; and  
a micro-processor capable of controlling the intensity of each of the first plurality of individual light sources.